



1782

SAINT MARY MESSENGER

The Newsletter for Alumni, Parents and Friends of
Saint Mary Interparochial School

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!



Front Row: Gabriel Levesque, Katy Doumbia, Marcos Echevarria, Bridget Veza, Isabella Fisher, Victor Tigano, Sage Williams, Luca Trotta

Second Row: Gia Ermilio, Mrs. Jayda Pugliese, Liam Small, Emme Grandizio, Julian Murphy, Giada D'Angelo, Braeden McDonald, Alexis Augustine, Mrs. Judy Sanicky, Daniel Sullivan

Third Row: Luna Savarese, Noa Mannal DiMarco, Ryan Hilser, Rocco Lukash, Lauren Tandoc, Joseph Atkinson

Back Row: Sadie Murawski, Mark Jamison, Lydia Ritsko

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Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Our most recent graduates will continue to shine their Saint Mary light as they embark on their new adventures in high school. The faculty and staff are confident that each unique student is prepared to be a Christ-Centered leader in all that they do. In addition, it should be noted that members of this class received over \$1,300,000 in scholarships for the next four years of their high school careers.

Congratulations to our class of 2024 - your futures are so bright!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



*Dear Parents,
Guardians,
Alumni, and
Supporters of
St. Mary
Interparochial
School,*

Reflecting upon
the 2023-2024
school year, I am

filled with such immense pride. Whether it be our students' academic milestones, athletic victories, artistic endeavors, musical showcases, rock concerts, spirited competitions, or faith-filled acts of service to others, our students, staff, families, and community members are genuinely shining their Saint Mary's light and continuing to exemplify the mission and vision that forms the foundation of Saint Mary Interparochial School. We have so much to celebrate and acknowledge from this past school year!

In September, Saint Mary Interparochial School was recognized by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as a 2023 School of Distinguished Instruction in Growth and Exceeding Potential and by the U.S. Department of Education as a High Performing 2023 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award, the only school in the City of Philadelphia to receive this incredible recognition. And, for the third year in a row, Saint Mary Interparochial School scored in the top 15% nationally on the TerraNova assessments, reaffirming that students' learning loss due to the pandemic has been minimal. In addition to our outstanding standardized testing scores, many students received special recognition throughout the school year in local, national, and international academic competitions, such as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Reading Olympics, Philadelphia Carver Science Fair, Model UN, Discovery Award, and National History Day competitions.

The Saint Mary Storm athletics program has once again demonstrated excellence this year. We extend our deepest gratitude to our athletic director, Kevin Barmann, and our numerous volunteer coaches, dedicated families, and student-athletes for their unwavering hard work and commitment throughout the seasons. We would like to give special recognition to the following teams for their championship victories: Girls'

Volleyball, Girls' Varsity Softball (first in our school's history!), and IUU Girls' Softball. We are immensely proud of all our athletes and eagerly anticipate another fantastic season! Go Storm!

The Middle School Entrepreneurial Service Leadership Program, which replaced our traditional STREAM elective in eighth grade, had a successful second year. The first business-oriented elective for 8th Graders within Catholic elementary schools in Philadelphia, in this course, students had a year-long challenge to design and produce a product and business model to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Philadelphia. Not only did this entrepreneurship program build our students' skills in business management, marketing, and developing financial forecasts, but it also reinforced their public speaking skills, emotional intelligence, design skills, and faith. The Entrepreneurial Service Leadership Program's final showcase was presented at Union League of Philadelphia, and guests were blown away by our students' prototypes and presentations.

The school has made significant investments in its infrastructure this summer. We have repaired the school's rooftop, a project paramount to the safety of all students, faculty, and staff members. We look forward to building a new rooftop garden with students this school year. Our stairwells, hallways, and outdoor steps have been repainted. Through an incredible grant from PECO, we have updated all remaining outdated light fixtures to LEDs, including the lights in the cafeteria. Finding innovative ways to utilize our physical space best, we have created a new Instrumental Music room and Nurse/Support Staff office. We are currently transitioning the Maintenance room to the "Saint Patrick's Collab-Lab," a classroom for small groups of students to use for project-based learning, video broadcasting, podcasts, and other STREAM-based activities. The kindergarten classroom received new tables, shelving furniture, and rugs, and two middle school classrooms received new chairs. These enhancements reflect our commitment to providing a dynamic and supportive learning environment. We are excited to see how these changes will enrich the educational experiences of our students and foster a thriving school community.

As we step into the new academic year, we are excited to continue our partnership with the many organizations that support the enrichment of our students' learning, such as Ann B. Zekauskas family foundation, 901 Education, BLOCS, Children Scholarship Fund, The Clay Studio, Connelly Foundation, CORA, Dancing Classrooms Philly, Free Library of Philadelphia, Greener Partners, Global Philadelphia, Musicopia, PE&T Charter High School, Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia Outward Bound School, Quiver Farms, Rendell Center for Civics and Civics Engagement, Ronald McDonald Charity House of Philadelphia, South Philly Music Academy, University of Pennsylvania, Verti Community Partnership, WHYY, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, and more. These collaborations underscore our dedication to providing diverse and enriching opportunities for our students. We are in the process of fostering additional partnerships that will bring even more programming to students, and look forward to sharing these updates with families in the near future.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, whose unwavering commitment to our students' well-being and growth is commendable. Their tireless efforts, passion for teaching, and compassionate guidance have undoubtedly shaped the lives of our students in immeasurable ways. We are truly blessed to have such an incredible team of educators and support staff. I specifically want to thank Mrs. Barbara Brown for 25 years of service and Mrs. Judy Crossan-Sanicky for 40 years of service to Catholic education.

I wish each and every one of you a safe, joyful, and rejuvenating summer break. May it be a time of rest, exploration, and renewal as we eagerly anticipate the new academic year ahead with many exciting events planned! Thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and faith in our school. We sincerely thank you for your investment in Saint Mary Interparochial School and the Christ-centered leaders you are helping to shape today and tomorrow!

Many blessings,

Mrs. Jayda Pugliese, M.Ed., Ed.D.(c)
Principal

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD OF LIMITED JURISDICTION



St. Mary Community,
It seems like only days ago that we watched the Class of 2024 walk proudly out of Saint Mary and into their next chapters. We do not doubt they will flourish and make Saint

Mary proud at their new high schools. Yet, although the sounds and sights of summer are all around us, we need only blink, and the first autumn leaf will fall. We will find ourselves again on the eve of another school year. Part of the success of Saint Mary is that everyone within the Community is forever looking forward to improve and grow, and the Board of Limited Jurisdiction (BLJ) is no exception. Part of the success of the BLJ has been its belief that the BLJ should be infused with new members periodically to encourage new vision, perspective, and growth so that the BLJ may better support the school. This upcoming school year, in fact, will be my last year on the BLJ and serving as Board Chair, as my Board term expires at the end of the upcoming 2024-25 school year. It is, therefore, a bittersweet letter I write now to the Saint Mary Community (as this is my last letter as Board Chair in the summer newsletter). Still, I am more excited than ever for the future of the BLJ and, more importantly, the future of Saint Mary.

I would also like to pay special tribute to Rich Autieri, whose Board term expired at the close of the 2023-2024 school year. Rich Autieri has been an invaluable member of the Saint Mary community, serving as a board member, Finance Chair, and Walkathon Chair. As an alumni parent to Alex, '18, and Rafaella, '19, Rich dedicated countless hours to ensuring the school's sustainability at a pivotal time in its history. Over 15 years, his leadership has provided strength, stability, and guidance while playing a vital role in the growth and vision of the school.

In addition, it should be noted that alongside his wife Toni, Rich served as Walkathon Chairs for several years, where they reimagined the campaign to strengthen the ARTS program and, as a result, raised over \$300,000. This provided continuous instruction for all Kindergarten through eighth-grade students to experience robust Art, Music, and Spanish instruction.



Rich and his family's contributions have been truly appreciated, and their commitment to the school has been significantly impacted. We are incredibly grateful for everything they have done and wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

We are also so fortunate to have Board Member Matt Morano assume the position of Finance Chair. Matt has worked closely with Rich in the past year and has already exhibited and demonstrated authentic leadership skills in managing and overseeing Saint Mary's finances.

The year ahead of us is one of tremendous opportunity. As the School and BLJ do every five years, the BLJ will create a Strategic Plan outlined by strategic goals ranging from Catholic Identity, Advancement, Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Governance, and Academic. This will involve a communal effort involving parents, students, faculty and staff, and volunteers outside the school community. This exercise allows us to set tangible benchmarks and goals for the next five years and enables the BLJ and the School to check its progress alongside the stated goals of the Strategic Plan. We look forward to creating and reaching these goals, benchmarks, and aspirations.

The BLJ, through the guidance of its Governance Committee, will also work to ensure that new leadership is in place for the 2025-26 school year and that the BLJ is infused with new Board members with new ideas, new energy, and new perspectives. And, of course, the current BLJ still has much to do in the upcoming school year. On behalf of the BLJ, we look forward to serving the entire Saint Mary Community this year. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve on the BLJ, and I am excited for my continued service in the upcoming 2024-25 school year, as well as the future of the school.

Best regards,
Michael Detweiler, Esquire
Board Chair and President

Board Members for 2024-2025

MICHAEL L. DETWEILER
Board Chair and President

FATHER PAUL GALLETTO
O.S.A.

JEANETTE HOWELL

MATTHEW MORANO
Parent, '29 and '28

SUSAN KOGER
Parent, '25
Board Secretary

ALANA LEE

UDAI PURAMSETTI
Parent '26

JUDGE TIMOTHY SAVAGE
United States District Court
Board Vice President

VICTORIA RODGERS, ESQ

MICHAEL SHAPSON, ESQ
Parent, '20 and '24

MARIA WALKER
Parent, '08 and '12

JAYDA PUGLIESE
Principal
Alumna, '01
Parent, '27

CHRISTINA HACISKI
Executive Director of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives

22ND ANNUAL WALKATHON:

Philadelphia's Food Firsts and Achievements in the Culinary Arts

Presented by Ann B. Zekauskas Family Foundation; Aurora Grace; City Plumbing; CrossCountry Mortgage; Harman Deutsch Ohler Architecture; Ralph and Barbara Novotney

The 22nd annual Walkathon on Friday, May 17, 2024, raised \$60,000 to support the art, music, and language programs at Saint Mary! Thank you to our sponsors and to those many friends, families, loved ones, and businesses for supporting our students and embracing this essential fundraising effort.

Congratulations to our top student fundraisers:

- Lucia C. '25
- Gia E. '24
- Francis G. '27
- John K. '25
- Connor M. '27
- Kevin M. '30
- Elizabeth N. '27
- Kellen O. '28
- Arlo O. '30
- Stephen W. '30

On behalf of our students who benefit from this fundraiser, thank you to the entire St. Mary community for making this campaign so successful! Please scan the QR code below to view our 2024 Walkathon Event Book.



Thank you to all of our 2024 Event sponsors!



CULTURAL CHAMPION SPONSORS

Atkinson Family

Barnosky Family

Bhullar Family



Cipparone Family



Koger Family

Marie Lynch

McCoy Family

Tierney Family



Woodton Family



SAVE THE DATE

Our 23rd Annual Walkathon Friday, May 16, 2025

It will celebrate "Philadelphia's Musical Firsts"



THANK YOU TO OUR HOME AND SCHOOL BOARD!

The Saint Mary Home and School Association is a parent volunteer organization that works to promote school spirit and cultivate community through a variety of activities including school dances, parent socials and our popular Dilworth Park skating and Trunk or Treat events. Fundraising income generated through membership dues and various fundraisers allow us to give back directly to the school through teacher classroom grants, teacher and student appreciation gifts, Catholic Schools Week, 8th grade graduation support and more.

Thank you to Liz Colussi, our outgoing Home and School Board Treasurer, for her service to Saint Mary Interparochial School over the last two years. We also welcome our new Home



and School Association members and look forward to all of the events to come during our 2024-2025 school year!

Home and School Board 2024-2025

Katie Andrews, President
 Jamie Wolf, Vice President
 Kathi Plymouth, Treasurer
 Megan Dever, Secretary
 Dane Root, Events

To learn more about our Home and School Association, please visit www.saintmarys.us/family-resources/home-school

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Abbott, Ms. Pugliese, Ms. Ruskey Haciski, and Ms. Scarduzio attended the FACTS ELEVATE 2024 national conference in Atlanta, Georgia. They are excited to bring new insights for our amazing students and families through all the seminars they attended however the highlight was attending Ms. Rakus' national innovation award winning lesson, Chick Hatching which encompassed all the elements of STREAM.

Ms. Rakus is also participating in Penn State University's Center for Science and the Schools Summer Workshop on Agricultural Science in Elementary Education. Through AG SEED-LINGS, she'll explore the role of pollinators in agriculture, learn strategies from research scientists, and enhance curriculum integration of science, math, and ELA for K-5 students.

Congratulations to Mr. Bridy for being accepted into the Civics that Empowers All Students (CEAS) fellowship grant! He kicked off this amazing opportunity at the Summer Institute at the University of Massachusetts in Boston from August 4 to August 9, 2024. We are looking forward to how Mr. Bridy will infuse this experience into the curriculum.

Ms. McCoy participated in a three-day institute with the Barnes on Arts Integration for Diverse Learners from July 31 to August 2. This workshop explores the power of art in teaching, healing, and connecting with students, featuring creative object-based and social-emotional learning strategies. She also has exclusive access to the collection and prep for a class field trip to see Mickalene Thomas: All About Love this fall.



CLASS OF 2024 PERSONAL PROFILES

St. Mary's celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2024! Every year we ask the graduating 8th graders to share a few of their personal stories, goals, memories and influences. Read through their words of wisdom; these are good messages for us all!



JOSEPH ATKINSON

HIGH SCHOOL
St. Joseph's Preparatory School

ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, UnSung Hero, Vetri Cooking Lab, National Junior Honor Society, National History

Day Competition, Chess Club, Ambassador, Math Counts

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influences in my life are my parents because they work really hard for me and would do anything for me.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to be kind, work hard, and travel the world.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Make it count."



ALEXIS AUGUSTINE

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy

ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador, UnSung Hero, Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is my mom because she does everything that she can to make sure that I have a smile on my face. She is always there for me when I need her and she is the most hardworking and caring person I know.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to try new things in high school and get into a great college.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." - Martin Luther King Jr.



GIADA D'ANGELO

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy

ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, UnSung Hero, Ambassador, Entrepreneurship, Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mom and dad because they both work really hard and they always tell me to follow my dreams.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to do something in the medical field and one day become a mom.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." - Dr. Seuss



KATY DOUMBIA

HIGH SCHOOL
St. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School

ACHIEVEMENTS
Musical Theater, Little Buddies, UnSung Hero, Vetri Cooking Lab, Ambassadors, Sewing Club,

Illustration Club, Basketball, Volleyball

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life are my parents because they have helped me learn more and they have always supported me.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to college and to become a nurse.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." - Albert Einstein



MARCOS ECHEVARRIA

HIGH SCHOOL
Central High School

ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, UnSung Hero, Vetri Cooking Lab, National Junior Honor Society, Ambassador, Chess

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my late grandfather, who through life and death has inspired me to be a better person every day.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goal is to study at a good university to become a veterinarian and an author.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." - Abraham Lincoln



GIA ERMILIO

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy

ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador, UnSung Hero, NJHS, Basketball, Softball, Volleyball

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence in my life is my sister because she is incredibly brave and talented in her wisdom.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to become a nurse, a great mom, and make others smile.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Life is what we make it, always has been, always will be." - Eleanor Roosevelt



ISABELLA FISHER

HIGH SCHOOL
Academy of Notre Dame de Namur

ACHIEVEMENTS
Musical Theater, STORM Sports, Little Buddies, UnSung Hero, Ambassadors, Study

Group, Girls on the Run, Basketball, Volleyball, Cross Country

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is my older sister Sofia. Sofia is my greatest influence because she excelled in high school and was recruited for rowing for college. I hope to one day follow in her foot steps.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to pursue a law degree while playing collegiate level field hockey on a scholarship.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"No matter how hard something may seem, no matter the situation you're in, there's someone out there who dreams of being in it" - Erin Matson (UNC Field Hockey Head coach)



EMME GRANDIZIO

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy

ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador, UnSung Hero, National Junior Honor Society, Basketball, Volleyball

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influences in my life are my mom and dad.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to play sports in college and become a doctor.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." - Oscar Wilde

Class of 2024 Personal Profiles, continued



RYAN HILSER

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, NJHS,
Illustration, MathCounts,
Musical Theater, Softball,
Volleyball

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influences are my parents because they work so hard to provide for me and my brother and love us unconditionally.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to become an actress and go to UPenn or Princeton.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"It's not cool to be a loser; go to school, graduate, get your own." - Nicki Minaj



MARK JAMISON

HIGH SCHOOL
Saint Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, Future Cities,
NJHS, Math Counts
GREATEST INFLUENCES

My greatest influences in my life are my parents and grandparents.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to have a successful career and to travel to see more big cities.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Don't worry, be happy." - Bobby McFerrin



GABRIEL LEVESQUE

HIGH SCHOOL
Saint Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, Future Cities,
National Junior Honor
Society, Chess, Illustration

Club, Entrepreneurship

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my grandmother who supports everything I do.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to become a college level fencer and to go to either the University of Pennsylvania or Georgetown for college.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." - Unknown



ROCCO LUKASH

HIGH SCHOOL
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, National
Junior Honor Society
GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is my father, because he has been with me my whole life and has helped me with everything I have ever needed he has also made me who I am today as a young man. He has helped me improve at sports and even though he might not be the best at helping me with school, he still tries.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to get better at everything I do whether it is school, sports, or personal life.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take"- Wayne Gretzky



NOA MANNAL DIMARCO

HIGH SCHOOL
Saint Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, Future Cities,
NJHS, One Team Track &

Field, Basketball, Cross Country, Illustration Club

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mom, because she taught me to be persistent and to stay kind and humble

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to finish high school and get into a good college.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"We are what we repeatedly do... excellence, therefore, isn't just an act, but a habit and life isn't just a series of events, but an ongoing process of self-definition." - Aristotle



BRAEDEN MCDONALD

HIGH SCHOOL
Roman Catholic High
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, Chess Club,
Dungeons & Dragons

GREATEST INFLUENCE

I would say my greatest influence in my life is my mom. I say this because of her being there no matter what happens no matter how bad I mess up.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to go to a college or trade school. Then I'll see how I feel after that.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Life may be tough but the people you surround yourself with can help you with it." - unknown



SADIE MURAWSKI

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies,
Ambassador, UnSung
Hero, NJHS, Basketball,
Volleyball
GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is one of my field hockey coaches, Coach Jackie, because she helped me find passion in my sport, gain confidence in everything I do, and encourages me to be the best version of myself.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to continue working hard on my academics, work hard on field hockey, make good decisions, and have fun.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"May the rest of our lives, be the best of our lives" - Jessica Keenan Wynn



JULIAN MURPHY

HIGH SCHOOL
St. Joseph's Preparatory
High School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies,
Ambassador, UnSung Hero,
Vetri Cooking Lab
GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence would have to be my dad because he has taught me so much since I was just a little kid. He has taught me not to give up and keep participating and working hard because if I work hard enough and really put my mind to it nothing is impossible.

FUTURE GOALS

In the future I would enjoy pursuing soccer into at least college because I have been absolutely in love with the sport since the age of two so that is the reason why I would like to do this.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." - Henry Ford



LYDIA RITSKO

HIGH SCHOOL
Central High School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Musical Theater, STORM
Sports, Little Buddies,
UnSung Hero, Vetri
Cooking Lab, National
Junior Honor Society,

Ambassador, Illustration Club
GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my family because they are always there to offer me advice.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to become a neurologist and to travel abroad.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"People are going to judge you anyway, so you might as well do what you want." - Taylor Swift



LUNA SAVARESE

HIGH SCHOOL
Bishop Eustace Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, UnSung
Hero, National Junior
Honor Society,
Ambassador

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mom. She is always there for me and supports me in everything that I do. She played a huge role in the person I am today.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goal is to go to a college with a ballet program and to later start a career as a veterinarian.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Eleanor Roosevelt



LIAM SMALL

HIGH SCHOOL
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies,
Ambassador, UnSung
Hero, Future Cities, Vetri
Cooking Lab

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is my father because he is brave and would do anything for his family.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goal is to finish college and have a family.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"The biggest risk is not taking any risks." - Mark Zuckerberg



DANIEL SULLIVAN

HIGH SCHOOL
YSC Academy
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, UnSung
Hero, National Junior
Honor Society, Ambassador
GREATEST INFLUENCE

The person with the greatest influence in my life is my grandfather, Laurence Sullivan. He has taught me so much and has been with me since I was born.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to become a professional soccer player or go on to a good college and go from there.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Always Hustle, Never Quit." - unknown



LAUREN TANDOC

HIGH SCHOOL
Central High School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Musical Theater, Little
Buddies, UnSung Hero,
Vetri Cooking Lab,
National Junior Honor
Society, Technology Club,

Ambassador

GREATEST INFLUENCE

The greatest influence in my life is my mother and my father because they are supportive of me and they always believe in me.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to become a doctor, be successful, and to travel the world.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Successful people are not gifted; they just work hard, then succeed on purpose." - G. K. Nielson



VICTOR TIGANO

HIGH SCHOOL
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
Basketball
GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence is my dad because he kept telling me to do the best I can do which I did and now I'm here.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goal is to go to high school and graduate, and then go to college and graduate then get a good job to do better in life.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Once you stop learning, you start dying." - Albert Einstein



LUCA TROTTA

HIGH SCHOOL
St. Joseph's Preparatory
School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
National Junior Honor
Society, National History
Day Competition, Math

Counts

GREATEST INFLUENCE

My Greatest Influence is my uncle because he has taught me to be a great person and to make the most out of whatever comes your way.

FUTURE GOALS

My Future Goals are to live a long life and to accomplish as much as I can.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." - Ferris Bueller



BRIDGET VEZZA

HIGH SCHOOL
Merion Mercy Academy
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, NJHS,
Basketball, Softball,
Volleyball
GREATEST INFLUENCE

My greatest influence in my life is my grandpa because he is the hardest worker I know while at the same time he puts his family first and does everything in his power to make sure everyone around him is happy.

FUTURE GOALS

My future goals are to get into college and become an interior designer or nurse. I also want to have a family and be able to provide them with the best life.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"You just do what you can and you have as much fun as possible." - Frank Ocean



SAGE WILLIAMS

HIGH SCHOOL
Saints John Neumann and
Maria Goretti High School
ACHIEVEMENTS
Little Buddies, Ambassador,
UnSung Hero, Haunted
House, Basketball
GREATEST INFLUENCE

My dad is my greatest influence because he is always there for me when I need him the most.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Never change for anyone. If someone really cares about you, they wouldn't want you to change."



IMPACT GIVING CAMPAIGN

TO OUR GENEROUS ST. MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL SUPPORTERS

Each gift to Saint Mary makes a transformative difference in the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. Your continued and dedicated support allows the Saint Mary light to brightly shine in Historic Philadelphia, an extraordinary example of an innovative, empowering, and nurturing Catholic educational program.

As you plan your giving for 2024-25, kindly consider these fundraising efforts as part of our Impact Giving campaign. Your voluntary donation is sincerely appreciated and makes a lasting impact within our school community.



Thursday, November 21, 2024
A Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education

YOUR DONATION GOES TO:
Improving our physical space to support our Students Academically and Spiritually



GALA SPONSOR

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

YOUR DONATION GOES TO:
An Exemplary Faith-based Academic Program, Financial Tuition Assistance, General Operating Expenses, Professional Development for our Staff and Educators,
Building Maintenance



Saturday, October 5, 2024
Rain or Shine

YOUR DONATION GOES TO:
STREAM Education
(Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, Math)



Friday, May 16, 2025
22nd Annual Walkathon:
Philadelphia's Musical Firsts
YOUR DONATION GOES TO:
Art, Music, and Language Enrichment

Additional Ways to Make a Difference:

- PA Tax Credit Program To Support St. Mary Students
- Appreciated Securities
- Matching Gifts
- Planned Giving and Bequests

Personalized Giving:

Please consider supporting these areas of need throughout the giving year at the level that is right for you. If you prefer to create your own personalized giving plan, please contact Christina Haciski, Executive Director of Advancement at 215-923-7522 or advancement@saintmarys.us to schedule a giving meeting.

Thank you for supporting St. Mary Interparochial School!

Our light continues to shine brightly as a beacon for outstanding Catholic education in the historic heart of Philadelphia.
Fifth and Locust Streets • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • www.saintmarys.us • 215-923-7522 • advancement@saintmarys.us

SAINT MARY INTERPAROCHIAL SCHOOL CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND



GALA SPONSOR



A Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

AT HALF AFTER SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

VIE - BY CECAPHE

PHILADELPHIA

Honoring

MARY ELLEN PENNA,
SCHOOL SECRETARY, ALUMNI PARENT, '01 AND '03
Legacy Leader Award

901 EDUCATION
Partner in Academic Excellence Award

Presenting
CITY PLUMBING

The Saint Mary Gala 2024 Support Opportunities

\$20,000 -- Limit 1

Presenting Sponsor

- Admission for 14 guests with premium reserved seating
- Highest profile event signage and priority placement for full-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and social media
- Includes sponsorship of the 2024 Hoedown and the 2025 Walkathon

\$15,000

Blue Ribbon Sponsor

- Admission for 12 guests with preferred reserved seating
- High profile event signage and prominent placement for full-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and social media
- Includes sponsorship of the 2024 Hoedown and the 2025 Walkathon

\$10,000

Legacy Sponsor

- Admission for 10 guests with reserved seating
- Event recognition and full-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and social media
- Includes sponsorship of the 2024 Hoedown and the 2025 Walkathon

\$5,000

Doors of Saint Mary Sponsor

- Admission for 8 guests with reserved seating
- Event recognition and half-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and social media
- Includes sponsorship of the 2025 Walkathon

\$2,500

Heart & Rose Sponsor

- Admission for 4 guests
- Event recognition and quarter-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Saint Mary Gala communications and social media

\$1,000

Scholars & Leaders Sponsor

- Admission for 2 guests
- Event recognition and quarter-page advertisement in event program
- Yearlong recognition in Gala communications

\$500

Shining Light Sponsor

- Admission for 2 guests
- Event recognition
- Yearlong recognition in Gala communications

Event Program Advertisements

Support Level	Size	Dimensions
\$750	Full	7.75" x 4.75"
\$500	Half	3.875" x 4.75"
\$250	Quarter	2.5" x 4.75"
\$100	Line listing in event program for parishes, families, and individuals n/a	

Special Notes

- Advertisement submission deadline is October 1, 2024
- All event program advertisements will be in full color
- Special event underwriting opportunities are also available. Please inquire if you are interested.

Payment Options

Please make checks payable to:
St. Mary Interparochial School
Fifth and Locust Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106

To pay using an online visit:
www.saintmarys.us

Contact Information

For more information, to email your advertisement as you would like it to appear, or to make a payment by phone, please contact Christina Haciski at advancement@saintmarys.us or 215-923-7522.

TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESS OWNERS WILL HELP CHILDREN BECOME “CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”



Thank you to our EITC partnering scholarship organizations for helping to provide financial aid to our students and their families!

**Business Schools Organized
for Catholic Schools (BLOCS)
The Children's Scholarship
Fund Philadelphia (CSFP)
Foundation for Catholic Education**

Please consider designating your personal taxes or business taxes to make quality education possible for our St. Mary students in the historic heart of Philadelphia!

EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credits) & OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credits) are available to both individuals and companies in the state of PA who are subject to tax liability. The Tax Credit program, which allows both individuals and businesses to redirect their state tax liability to fund scholarships for students and families in need, living in the Philadelphia region and across the state of PA.

Personal Tax Credit - Special Business Partnerships Utilizing The Pennsylvania Educational Tax Credits for Personal Taxes

A special-purpose limited liability company established to provide tuition assistance scholarships to low-income families through the use of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. These programs allow members to receive up to a 90% tax credit against their personal PA state tax liability. Essentially, you turn your PA tax liability into scholarships!

Business Tax Credit

Businesses in Pennsylvania can receive up to a 90% tax credit by designating tax dollars through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs. By directing tax dollars your business will already be paying, you can help provide a quality education for children who otherwise would not be able to afford it. The EITC & OSTC PA tax credits allow businesses to make these donations for pennies on the dollar.

St. Mary Interparochial School is happy to announce we have been designated over \$500,000 in EITC/OSTC funding through BLOCS, Foundation for Catholic Education, and the Children's Scholarship Fund Philadelphia organizations.

St. Mary is grateful to the organizations and individuals who have designated tax dollars to make an outstanding education accessible to many of our students.

HELP PROVIDE A TUITION REDUCTION GRANT FOR ALL ST. MARY FAMILIES

Last year, in a generous partnership with the Foundation for Catholic Education, we launched a new Tuition Reduction Grant Program that benefited ALL St. Mary families this past school year. Now we are planning to double that tuition reduction grant by asking individuals to designate a portion of their PA State tax dollars to Catholic Education rather than sending these tax dollars to the state for the upcoming school year.

We encourage all St. Mary Family and Friends to designate a portion of their tax liability to the TuitionCare Program. If we can grow the number of participants to match the total number of families whose children are enrolled in our school (currently 189), the Tuition Reduction Grant this time next year could be \$1,000 per family!

If you have any questions about the TuitionCare: Tuition Reduction Grant Program or how you can designate your tax dollars to increase the grant for every family, please contact Christina Haciski, Executive Director of Advancement and Strategic Initiatives, at 215-923-7522 or advancement@saintmarys.us.





SAINT MARY STORM ATHLETICS UPDATE 2023-2024

Kevin Barmann, Saint Mary Storm Athletic Director

Year in Review

Congratulations to everyone on a memorable 2023-2024 sports season for our students. Thank you to the coaches, for all their time and effort. We also are thankful for Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, for our students to use FDR, Shot Tower, Chew Playground, Murphy Recreation this past year. We had twenty teams during the school year - GO STORM!

Fall 2023

Girls' Volleyball

Honored as CYO Region 6 Champions

Soccer

9/10 year old team made semifinals
7/8 year old Burgundy Bears soccer team was SEYAA Runner Up team with a 11-2 record

Cross country

Competed with SFX and had increased participation

Winter 2023-2024

Girls' Basketball

Congratulations to the Region 6 All Stars: Emmy G., Lucy C F., Nora B., Emma F., and Genevieve T.

Spring 2024

Track and Field

Colt D. - 2nd place in his heat by a razor-thin margin of just 0.07 seconds
The boys and girls 4x100 relay teams secured 2nd place in their respective heats
Completed SFX, and had many new runners add depth to the roster

Baseball and Softball

10U Baseball finished as runner up in their SEYAA Baseball division
11U softball went 10-0, winning their championship
Saint Mary Storm Softball Girls won the school's first CYO Softball Region 6 Championship



General Storm Highlights:

University of Penn Football game with tunnel time
University of Penn softball game with Q&A with players
Saint Mary Phillies day at the ballpark

1st Annual Coaches Breakfast and Student Athlete Mass

We celebrated our incredible student athletes and coaches at our Appreciation Breakfast and Mass! We commend their hard work, dedication, and achievements both on and off the field.

Thank you Coaches - Frank Aguilar, Zach Alexander, Katie Andrews, Adam Arrison, Eric Balchunas, Kevin Barmann, JP Colussi, Steve DeCesare, Angelo DeRito, Megan Dever, Jennifer Fisher, Mike Gehris, Frank Gentile, Beth Grandizio, Steve Grandizio, Chris Isaacson, Jon Jadlo, Stephen Janczewski, Dan Kilpatrick, Steve Krause, Catherine Milano, John Murawski, Stephanie Notarianni, Rebecca Ohler, Alesandro Oliveto, Aaron Peskin, Chris Plymouth, Julie Sarver, Brian Squilla, Michael Swerling

Bittersweet Goodbyes

Special thanks to Kevin Barmann for several years of serving our Storm Athletic Program. He helped strengthen the opportunities for our student athletes and also led several teams to championships. We wish you the best of luck and thank you once again for your time, expertise, and support over the years!

Frank Gentile, parent '27, and Julie Sarver, parent '28 will take over as Co-Athletic Directors for the 2024-2025 school year! Planning has already begun for another exciting year of STORM athletics! GO STORM!



CALL FOR STORM VOLUNTEERS

For this upcoming Winter Season, we are seeking multiple volunteers to help coach:

JV Girls Basketball
Varsity Girls Basketball
Volleyball



Volunteer coaches can be parents, Saint Mary alumni, relatives, friends, coworkers, or young adults who want to help impact the student athletes. All volunteer coaches will need to provide clearances (guidance will be provided). Please contact storm@saintmarys.us.

Let's Go Storm!



ALUMNI CIRCLE NEWS

The Alumni Circle is an informal alumni community connecting former classmates and St. Mary School in a fun and easy way.

Class of 2024: Welcome to the St. Mary Interparochial School Alumni Circle!

We welcome the entire Class of 2024 into our Alumni Circle! We are very proud of our newest members and all that they have achieved, and we look forward to hearing all about their high school accomplishments! Best of luck!

Alumni Circle: The Alumni Circle is an informal alumni community connecting former classmates and school in a fun and easy way.



St. Mary Alumni Good News

Special thanks to alumni, Maria Shapson, Alumni '20, who graciously addressed our newest alumni on June 11th during our annual pinning

ceremony and had these words to share with our new Saint Mary Alumni, "There are still some pieces of advice that I wish I had during that time of transition: one of them being to give myself some grace. Whatever you are

feeling, it is ok". She challenges the Class of 2024 to enhance their high school journey by fully embracing the changes high school brings. Maria was a Diploma with Distinction recipient in Arts and Culture and received Distinguished Honors.

Alumni Spotlight

Would you like to be featured in an Alumni Spotlight? Share your good news with us! Email alumni@saintmarys.us and provide a brief description of any milestones or achievements that you would like to share with the St. Mary community.

Alumni Service Opportunities

Each year, we invite our high school-aged alumni to receive service hours through our Annual Harvest Hoedown! Stay up to date on all volunteer opportunities by following our social media accounts!



Alumni Volunteer

2024 LEGACY SCHOLARS

A Legacy Scholar is a student who has attended Saint Mary from Kindergarten to 8th grade.

JOSEPH A.
ALEXIS A.
MARCOS E.
GIA E.
EMME G.
MARK J.
JULIAN M.
LYDIA R.
LUNA S.
DANIEL S.
LUCA T.
BRIDGET V.





SAVE THE DATE!

18th Annual Harvest Hoedown
on Locust Street
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 5, 2024,
from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This event is rain or shine!

This joyous autumn celebration is an opportunity to bring students, parents, staff, alumni, and friends together in the heart of historic Philadelphia.

All proceeds benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School through STEAM programs. For sponsorship and ticket information, please visit www.saintmarys.us/support/harvesthoedown.

The Hoedown rallies and unifies the St. Mary's community around a common cause: to raise money to support our mission to challenge our diverse student body, to grow morally, academically and socially into passionate, confident and Christ-centered leaders of the 21st century.

Our Harvest Hoedown donations support our STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, and Math) Education Programs! This year, we celebrate our Harvest Hoedown's 16th anniversary.

For sponsorship and admission information, please visit saintmarys.us/support/harvesthoedown.

Nominate an Alum Today for the Eighth Annual Harding Alumni Award

During the 18th Annual Harvest Hoedown, a graduate of St. Mary Interparochial School who exemplifies excellence in service to the community at large will be presented with The Harding Alumni Award. Nominations are now being accepted.

Anyone can nominate an alum today by scanning this QR code:



Nominate Alumni

Sponsorship Opportunities

Sponsor the 18th Annual Harvest Hoedown today! All sponsors will be listed in our Event Book, St. Mary website, and Facebook fan page. For a full description of all sponsorship levels, or to sponsor the Harvest Hoedown today, please scan the QR code below.



GALA SPONSOR

Hoedown Admission: Purchase your tickets today!

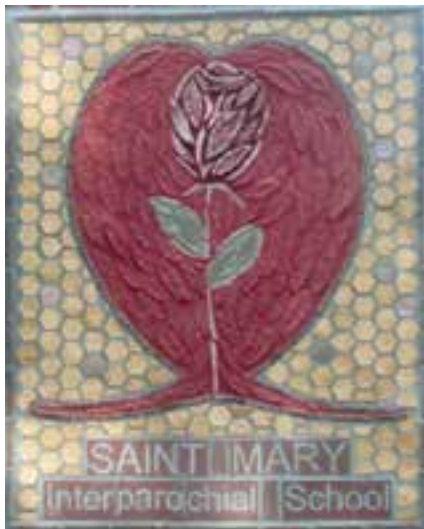
Day of Event Admission: Admission to the Harvest Hoedown is \$12.50. After September 27th, Admission to our Harvest Hoedown is \$15.00. Purchase your admission tickets today by filling out the form below. Online ticket sales will close on Friday, September 29 at 2:00 PM.



ADMISSION&RAFFLE

Admission to the Hoedown Includes 10 Hoedown Tickets to be used for food and activities. Scan the QR code below to purchase your admission tickets today!

For more information visit <http://www.saintmarys.us/support/harvest-hoedown>



Annual Giving

HELP US KICK OFF OUR ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN 2024-2025

The Annual Giving Campaign is a yearly fundraising drive for the purpose of raising much-needed funds to benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School. These essential funds assist in providing:

- A top-rated Academic Program
- Scholarship and Tuition Assistance for families in need
- Technology for the 21st Century
- Necessary building and physical plant maintenance

You will receive our Annual Report for 2023-2024 and our Annual Giving letter this winter. We are grateful for your generosity. We hope you will contribute once again along with our entire St. Mary School community. 100% percent of your contribution will be used to benefit the students of St. Mary Interparochial School. Thank you in advance for your donation!

How can you help?

- Donate online at www.saintmarys.us/support/annualgiving, call 215-923-7522, or send cash or check donation to:
Saint Mary Interparochial School
5th and Locust Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
- Double your impact by requesting a matching gift from your employer.
- Spread the word about our Annual Giving Appeal to others who, like you, believe in an excellent Catholic education for children of all religious, economic, and ethnic backgrounds.

This newsletter was designed and printed with the support of Alusiv communication design and Conner Printing, Inc

Saint Mary Interparochial School is an equal opportunity service provider and employer

Visit www.saintmarys.us/admissions/visiting to RSVP today. Any questions, please contact our Admissions Director at admissions@saintmarys.us or 215-923-7522.

May 6, 2025 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

January 28, 2025 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

September 24, 2024 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Open Houses 2024-2025

The rich academic and historic heritage of St. Mary Interparochial School dates to the early days of Philadelphia, as Catholics and Protestants engaged in a spirited debate over educational practices. Founded in 1782 by the Jesuit fathers of Old St. Joseph's Church, St. Mary is known as "The Mother School" of Catholic parochial education and is credited with influencing Catholic educational patterns in this country. Situated near Independence Hall and other pivotal sites in old Philadelphia, it served children for more than a century before closing in 1902 after a devastating fire. St. Mary reopened in 1968, again with a distinction: With students drawn from six different parishes, it was the first interparochial school in the nation. St. Mary Interparochial School is situated in Independence National Park and serves over 250 children from all over the City of Philadelphia and its suburbs.

History of Saint Mary Interparochial School

Saint Mary
Interparochial School
Fifth and Locust Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215.923.7522
www.saintmarys.us

